

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 04902 01 OF 02 291344Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00
OMB-01 SSC-01 CU-02 OES-07 EB-07 /070 W
-----125602 291521Z /46

O R 291123Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 809
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MADRID 4902

USEC

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TASG: PINT, SP
SUBJECT:THE UCD EMBARKS ONTHE ROAD TOA SINGLE CABINET PARTY.1.LAST
NIGHT DURING MEETING OF ALL THE LOWER HOUSE DEPUTIES
AND SENATORS OF THE UCD, PRESIDED OVER BY PRIME MINISTER
SUAREZ, THEY DECIDED, AFTER MODEST DEBATE, TO MOVE TOWARD THE
EARLY FORMATION OF A SINGLE PARTY. THE DECLARATION SAYS THEY AFFIRM
THEIR CONVICTION THAT ONLY EFFECTIVE WAY IS TO CONSTITUTE A
POLITICAL PARTY THAT RESPONDS TO THE WILL OF CHANGE AND THE CON-
FIDENCE
DEPOSITED IN THE UDC BY MORE THAN SIX MILLION VOTERS. FINALLY
THE GROUP DECIDED TO DESIGNATE SUAREZ PROVISIONALLY AS PRESIDENT
OF THE PARTY TO BE FORMED LATER AND ASKED HIM TO WORK WITH THE
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PAGE 02 MADRID 04902 01 OF 02 291344Z

CHIEFS OF THE GROUPS AND PARTIES OF THE COALITION TO ORGANIZE PARLIA-
MENTARY MECHANISMS AND THE STRUCTURE OF THE NEW PARTY.

2. IN THE DEBATE THE FEW OBJECTIONS CAME MOSTLY FROM
LIBERALS ASSOCIATED WITH JOAQUIN GARRIGUES WALKER, WHILE
THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEADER FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ, WHOSE INITIAL
RESERVATIONS ON THE IDEA OF A SINGLE PARTY HAVE BECOME PUBLIC,

WENT ALONG WITHOUT A MURMUR. SUAREZ AFTERWARDS IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE

SAID THE UCD WOULD ADOPT A REGIONAL STRUCTURE AND HE WOULD WORK TO BUILD UP THE STRUCTURE OF THE NEW PARTY, NOTING THAT THERE WERE DIFFERENT POLITICAL POSTURES WITHIN THE UCD THAT REQUIRED CONCILATION.

3. THAT IS THE PUBLIC RECORD. BEHIND THE SCENES, WE UNDERSTAND THAT SUAREZ OF COURSE PREVAILED BUT YIELDED TO A MODEST EXTENT IN THE SENSE THAT YESTERDAY'S AGREEMENT ESTABLISHES PARLIAMENTARY DISCIPLINE AND REPRESENTS A SOLEMN PLEDGE ON THE PART OF ALL THE DEPUTIES AND SENATORS TO PARTICIPATE IN A NEW SINGLE PARTY, WITHOUT YET FORMALLY CONSTITUTING IT. SUAREZ ALSO SAID, NOT SURPRISINGLY THAT THE PARTY WOULD FOLLOW A CENTER LEFT PROGRAM, A TIP OFF THAT FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ WILL LIKELY PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE NEW CABINET, WHICH SUAREZ INDICATED MIGHT BE ANNOUNCED BY WEEK'S END. A SENIOR AIDE TO SUAREZ, JOSE MANUEL OTERO, WHO IS IN LINE FOR A STATE SECRETARY POSITION IN THE PRESIDENCY, TOLD EMBOFFS YESTERDAY THAT IN HIS VIEW, WHILE THERE WERE GENUINE RESERVATIONS ON THE PART OF SOME OF THE UCD, ABOUT THE WISDOM OF MOVING SO QUICKLY ON A SINGLE PARTY, NONETHELESS THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEM HAD BEEN THE DESIRE FOR CABINET POSTS, IN WHICH VARIOUS GROUPS THOUGHT THAT BY REMAINING INDEPENDENT THEY COULD CLAIM THAT BECAUSE THEY HAD SO MANY SEATS THEY DESERVED SO MANY MINISTRIES. THE POINT WAS THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF A

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PAGE 03 MADRID 04902 01 OF 02 291344Z

SINGLE PARTY HAD TO BE ESTABLISHED NOW, BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT WAS NAMED AND THE CORTES GO UNDER WAY. A SINGLE PARTY WOULD BE A NECESSITY BY THE TIME OF THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. SINCE THE UCD COULD NOT AFFORD THE LUXURY THIS TIME AROUND OF LETTING THE SOCIALISTS HAVE THE DISCIPLINED ORGANIZATION.

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PAGE 01 MADRID 04902 02 OF 02 291454Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MADRID 4902

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TASG: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: THE UCD EMBARKS ON THE ROAD TO A SINGLE CABINET PARTY

4. IN OTHER MATTERS, OTERO CONFIRMED THAT ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANIZATION WOULD TAKE PLACE IN THE NEXT CABINET MEETING, PERHAPS TOMORROW, BUT IT WOULD BE IN TWO STAGES, THE FIRST STAGE A RRESTRUCTURING OF THE CABINET POSTS, TO BE DONE NOW, AND THE SECOND STAGE A MORE THOROUGH GOING ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM TO BE APPROVED BY THE CORTES, THIS PRESUMABLY REFLECTS AGREEMENT BETWEEN SUAREZ AND THE PSOE'S GONZALEZ AT YESTERDAY'S MEETING. GONZALEZ HAD SAID PREVIOUSLY THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS SHOULD BE PUT TO THE CORTES AND THE PRACTICE OF THE DECREE-LA
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PAGE 02 MADRID 04902 02 OF 02 291454Z

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WHICH HE NOTED HAD BEEN USEFUL IN DISTABLISHING FRANCOISM SHOULD END. BUT AFTER THE MEETING GONZALEZ INDICATED CERTAIN MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION WERE FOR THE GOVERNMENT BUT OTHERS FOR THE CORTES.

5. THOUGH WE DID NOT DISCUSS ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM IN DETAIL, OTERO CONFIRMED THERE WOULD ONLY BE ONE VICE PRESIDENT (INSTEAD OF THE TWO-- ONE A MILITARY MAN AND THE OTHER A CIVILIAN-CURRENTLY IN EFFECT). FOR THE RECORD PRESS REPORTS SUGGEST 13 MINISTRIES, PRESIDENCY) DEFENSE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, FINANCE JUSTICE, GOVERNMENT: HEALTH, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION; DEVELOPMENT: AGRICULTURE, INFRA STRUCTURE EDUCATION AND CULTURE; AND SOCIAL WELFARE. THE PRESIDENCY WOULD HAVE TWO OR THREE SECRETARIES OF STATE INCLUDING FOR ADMINISTRATION
AND FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING AND STATISTICS, AND DEFENSE WOULD HAVE

THREE SECRETARIES OF STATE FOR THE THREE SERVICES. THIS
REFORM ENDS THE FRANCO ERA SURVIVAL OF THE SYNDICAL RELATIONS
MINISTRY (SSP), OFF TO THE DUSTBIN ALONG WITH THE MINISTRY
OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT, ABOLISHED EARLIER. STABLER

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